THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) 13 proposals for declaration of state roads as National Highways in West Bengal had been received and have now been returned to the State Govemment in June, 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. There is no proposal to declare any new National Highway in the country at present due to fund constraints. The Government may however, consider declaration of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan from amongst the modified proposals to be received from various states keeping in view the trafic need, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Corridor between Assam and Gujarat

1001. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Purba-Paschim Corridor O Uttarbanga" in Ganashaki dated the 3rd July, 2002 reading East West corridor connecting Assam to Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the changes in the alignment in North Bengal as suggested in the news-item; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c)The alignment of East-West Corridor has already been finalised and it is not possible to change the alignment at this stage.

Golden Quadrangle Project

1002. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) wether it has been decided that a part of the Eastern and Western expressways in the Golden Quadrangle being constructed by the National Highways Authority of India would pass through Delhi Territory.

(b) if so, the areas through which this Highway would pass; and